

Application No.: 10/724,191
Amendment dated: 12/30/05
Reply to Office Action of 9/14/05

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Figure 7. This sheet replaces the original sheet.

In Figure 7, the nut 402 has been changed to "408".

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Initially, Applicants' attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for the thoroughness with which he has examined the application and the advice concerning ambiguities. The Examiner's advice concerning allowable subject matter was noted and the allowable claims are presented in rewritten form.

Figure 7 has been amended to identify the nut by the numeral 408.

The claims are now considered to provide antecedents for the various terms in the claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been substantially amended to reflect two key aspects of novelty in the present application. The stiles and rails are assembled to the door panel by compression fitting so that fasteners are not required to assemble the door. The rollers in turn are seated in the top and bottom rails which in turn are slidable within the guide tracks. The upper roller mechanism is concealed from view by the guide track. The result is an easily assembled and an attractive door assembly.

Claim 1 now clearly states that the stiles and rails are compression fitted onto the door panel, and that the top roller mechanism is concealed in the top guide track. Such a novel structure is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art.

Armstrong's stiles and rails are not compression fitted onto a door panel because he

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has no door panel to which the stiles and rails could be compression fitted. He has a screen with its edges secured in the frame. He does refer to the "wedging" of the roller assemblies in the surrounding frame. The Examiner has recognized that Armstrong does not have a mounting arrangement of the type defined in Claim 21 or a top guide upwardly opening channel as defined in Claim 22. He does not have roller assemblies mechanism which are slidable in U-shaped guide tracks and concealed by the rails and guide tracks.

Although Lageson has bottom and top tracks which provide channels in which the rollers seat, the overall structure is distinct, and there is no suggestion for the proposed reconstruction.

Allowable Claims 8 and 16 have been rewritten as independent Claims 21 and 22 respectively. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$100.00 in payment of the additional filing fee for the two added claims. Please debit or credit Deposit Account No. 03-3355 for any overage or deficiency.

Also enclosed is a request for a thirty day extension and the required filing fee.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, is respectfully submitted that the claims define a novel and unobvious sliding door assembly, and early allowance thereof is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KENNETH JACOBS

By 

Peter L. Costas
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 18,637
860 241-2630

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APPENDIX



DRAWING SHOWING CORRECTION

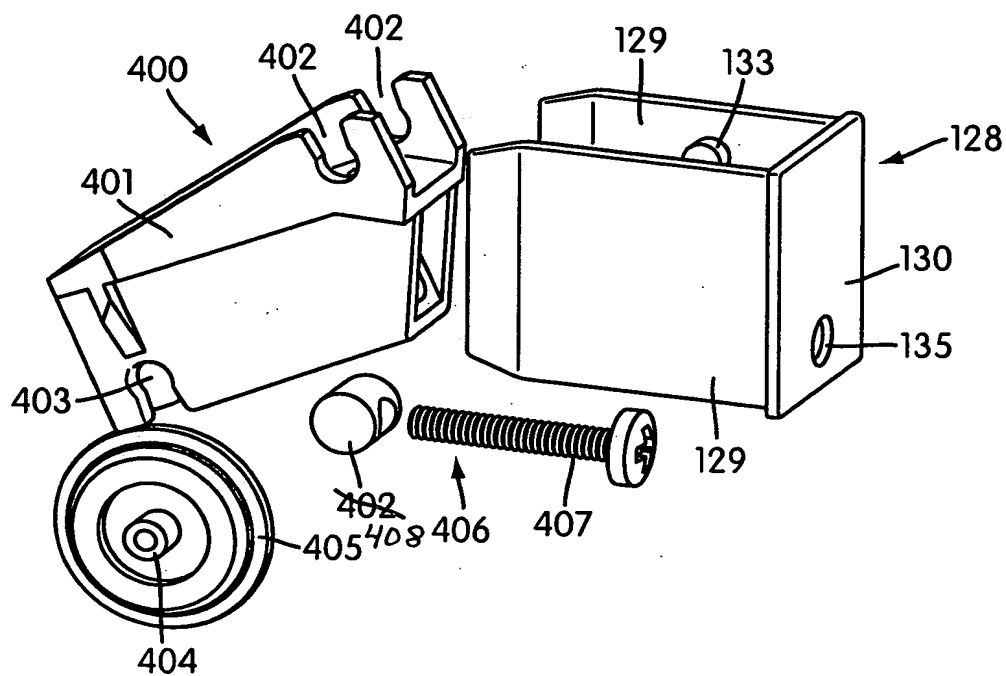


FIG. 7